

The Truth  *About Health*

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER FRIST SLIPS PROVISION FOR LAVISH PROTECTION OF
DRUG COMPANIES INTO DEFENSE BILL

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In a December 2005 news release, the consumer protection group Public Citizen revealed that lavish and extraordinary protection for drug and vaccine manufacturers had been added to a Defense spending bill.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist added a 45-page rider onto the bill that absolves drug makers of responsibility “even for gross negligence or recklessness when making tainted, defective or deceptively labeled products. Worse yet,” the Public Citizen release states, “legal immunity under the bill would extend to already available drugs if they are used to prevent, treat or cure a designated epidemic or pandemic disease.”

Frist tried this same trick in 2002 when he tried to shield Eli Lilly from any liability from its mercury-laden vaccine preservative thimerosal. Frist added this provision to the Homeland Security bill at the last minute; many Senators were unaware of its presence. Congress was later forced to repeal this measure when it was revealed.

SOURCE: <http://www.citizen.org/pressroom/release.cfm?ID=2102>